

**Claim Objection**

Objected to Claim 26 is cancelled.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC Sec. 112**

Claims 4 and 5 have been corrected. These claims were dependent upon Claim 24, and are now dependent on new Claim 37. The cable "connector" in these claims has been corrected to recite the ~~the cable~~ slot.

Claim 25 has been cancelled and replaced by new Claim 38 which has been amended to include ~~and cable channel~~.

Claim 33 has been canceled.

Claim 34 has been amended to make it dependent on new Claim 36 and now recites the channel and not the slot.

The above claims as now presented are believed to avoid the Section 112 objections pointed out by the examiner. Applicant thanks the examiner for pointing out these deficiencies.

While not noted by the examiner, Claim 12 used the word "sleeves" and since there is only one "sleeve", that word in the second line of Claim 12 is now singular.

**Claims Rejections - 35 USC Sec. 102**

Claims 3-5, 8, 11-13, 15 and 24-34 were rejected on Potter under 35 USC Sec. 102.

Claims 24-26 and 28 are cancelled.

Applicant presents herewith new independent Claims 37 and 38, which are like cancelled Claims 24 and 25, respectively, with additions as hereafter discussed. . In Claim 37, applicant has added to former Claim 24 the additional limitation that --said gripper having a cable slot and channel which freely slidably accommodates a cable attached to said cable connector--. In Claim 38, applicant has added to former Claim 25 the additional limitation that --said fingers each being coplanar and free of any projections at their distal ends--.

Claims 3-5, 8, 11-13 and 15 are now dependent on new Claim 37 or its dependencies. Claims 27, 29-32, 34 and 36 are now dependent on new Claim 38 or its dependencies.

With regard to dependent Claim 3, Potter has no substantially rectangular connector slot; his fingers are canted and provide no rectangular slot. Further, Potter has no engaging lug as recited in dependent Claims 4 and 8. Claim 5, which is now dependent on dependent Claim 4, recites a non-slip grip of the fingers, which is absent from Potter.

Rejected dependent Claim 11 has been replaced by new Claim 35 and rejected Claims 12 and 13 are now dependent upon new Claim 35. New dependent Claim 35 recites that the --grripper has flexible fingers, such that said fingers are gradually moved together as they are drawn into said sleeve.-- Potter's finger are not moved gradually - they are abruptly forced together as the sleeve reaches the bulges 30, and are not flexed outwardly or otherwise at any time to engage a connector.

Rejected Claim 26 and 28 have been cancelled. However reconsideration of Claims 27, and 29-32, now amended as dependent on new Claim 38 is requested. Claims 27 recites the relationship

of the interlocking engagement of the tool with the connection, but there is no connector relationship suggested by Potter, as is the case with Claim 30, as amended. . Claim 29 recites the one-handed operation of the tool, but that cannot be fairly done with the Potter device. Claim 31 now includes all of the limitations of its parent Claim 38. Claim 32 recites the finger rest of the applicant's device, but there is no finger rest in Potter.

Potter does not teach or suggest or remotely apply to a cable connector installation or withdrawal tool. It is a tool for stripping insulation from an electric connector. There is no associated cable connector in Potter. The ends (27) of Potter are sharp cutting edges and bend inwardly from the fingers or jaws (16). The slot or bore 14 accommodates a conductor, and there is no equivalent of the connector. There is no free, slidable movement of a cable attached to a connector (as there is no connector) and the conductor and its holding member must be pushed into the bore until it is stopped by a stop (19). The fingers or jaws (16) are not co-planar as they have intermediate bulges 30 which force the cutting edges of the ends 27 to cut through the conductor insulation.

If the above discussed features were provided on a cable connector tool, the cable connector would be destroyed, either by the squeezing action of the bulges and jaws, or cut by the cutting edges of the ends or not properly inserted into a cable connector receiving member because the inward projections of the ends would prevent seating of the connector. Applicant submits that this reference should be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC Sec. 103**

Claims 10-13 were rejected on Adams in view of Hood or Potter in view of Hood.

Applicant submits herewith a Rule 131 Affidavit swearing back of Adams, and Adams should be withdrawn as a reference.

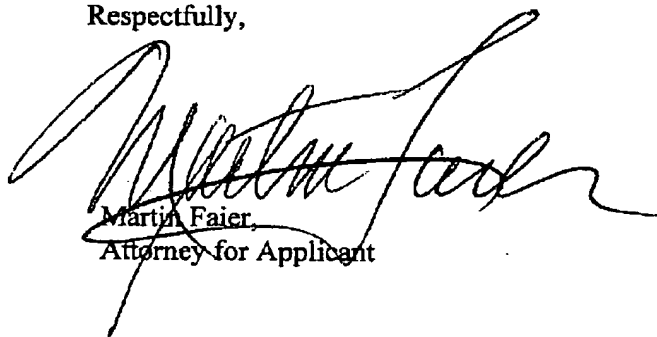
Potter has been fully discussed in the Sec. 112 portion of this response. Potter lacks the co-planar fingers which are free of projections at their distal ends, as his finger are not co-planar and they have inwardly directed sharp projections at their distal ends. Potter has no equivalent of a gripper for a connector and he has no cable slot which freely slidably accommodates a cable attached to a connector - and there is no connector involved in the Potter device - only a conductor wire to be cut and stripped of insulation. Hood adds nothing to anticipate applicant's structure, as the limitations noted are likewise absent from Hood. As noted in the Section 102 discussion, if these discussed features of Potter and Hood were provided on a cable connector tool, the cable connector could not function.

It is also noted with respect to Adams, which is the subject of applicant's Rule 131 Affidavit, that Adams has inwardly directed projections 130 on his fingers 120-122 and the fingers are not co-planar. Adams is a fiber extractor tool for removing a terminus and is not a tool useful for installing or removing a connector. Nor does Adams have a cable slot and channel which freely slidably accommodates a cable attached to the cable connector, as Adams has slots, retention clips and tines which could interfere with free movement of the cable connected to a connector.

Applicant submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant presents herewith a new Listing of Claims, modified in accordance with the present response .

Respectfully,



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